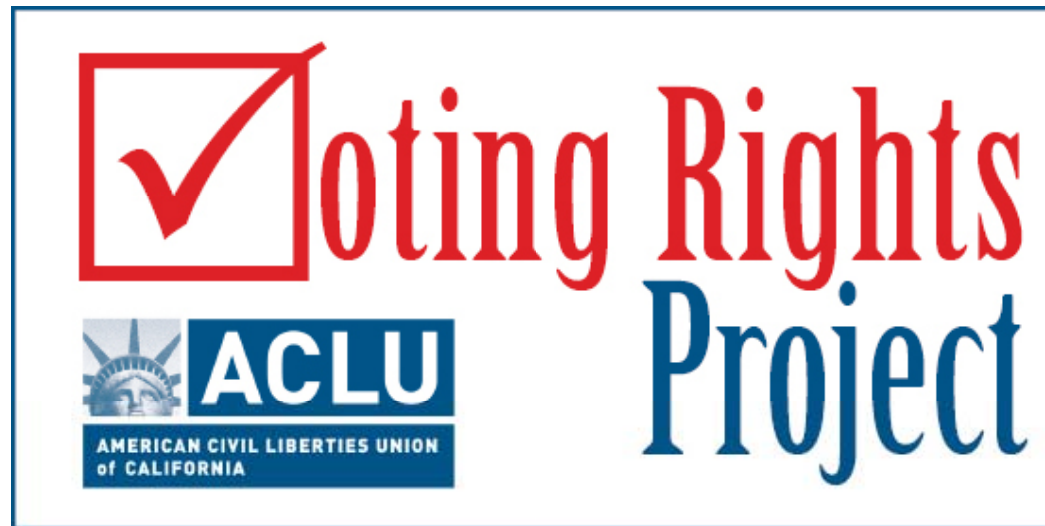


# National Voter Registration Act: Public Assistance Agencies

Jonathan Stein | Voting Rights Attorney  
[jstein@acluca.org](mailto:jstein@acluca.org)



# Why voter registration?

California ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in its voter registration rate among eligible voters.

There are 5.8 million unregistered eligible California voters.

People with low incomes and people disabilities have lower voter registration rates and lower voting rates.

Offices like yours are uniquely situated to register voter. Average monthly voter registrations at public assistance agencies are up **476%** from 2009.

# **SB 35 Took Effect January 1, 2013: Makes Tracking by Site Possible**

Each “NVRA agency” must report the location of each office or site that provides voter registration services to the county elections office.

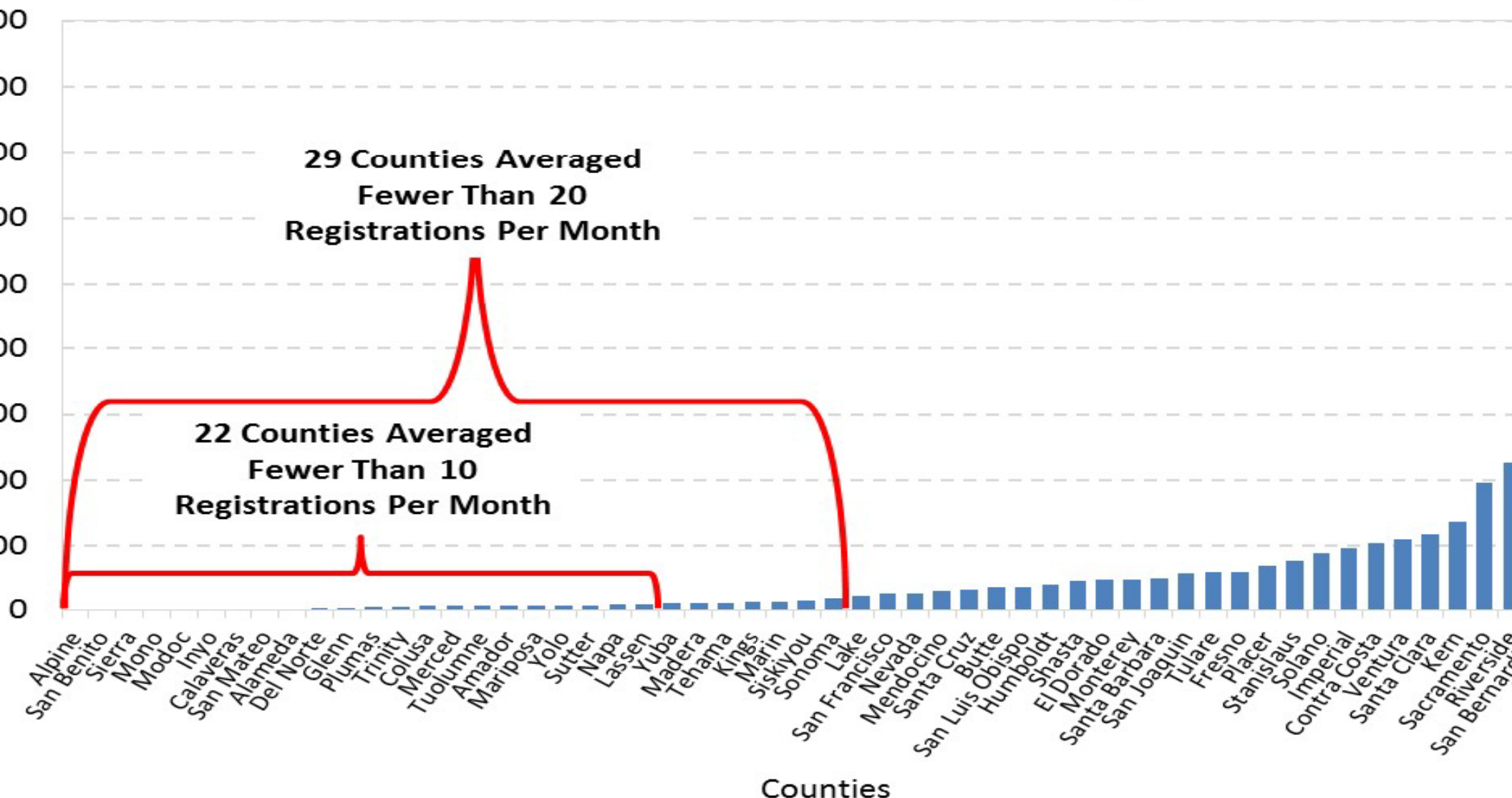
- This is *your* responsibility, not the county elections office’s responsibility.

NVRA agencies must order their voter registration cards from county elections officials *only*.

County elections offices track the number of voter registrations received from each NVRA office or site.

County elections officials send monthly reports of the number of registrations to the Secretary of State, which are then posted online.

# Average Number of Monthly Voter Registrations at Public Assistance Offices, 2013



Source: California Secretary of State.

Notes: Data reflects January to November, 2013.

Secretary of State

Administration

**Elections**

Business Programs

Political Reform

Archives

Registration

Voter  
Registration Act

me

for Agencies

Implementation  
Materials

Service Announcements

of  
Correspondence

Standards

Administration Agencies

Frequently Asked Questions

Information

Registration Home

Home

## National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) Reports

Secretary of State NVRA Reports by County and Category

California Biennial Reports to the Election Assistance  
Commission

To see your agency's report, visit:

[www.sos.ca.gov/elections/nvra/reports/](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/nvra/reports/)

Privacy Statement | Free Document Readers

Copyright © 2013 California Secretary of State

Regis  
to

We





*privacy*

*All people Liberty*

*Speak Conscience*

*without discrimination*

# California Secretary of State Debra Bowen

Secretary of State

Administration

Elections

Business Programs

Political Reform

Archives

Registries

National Voter  
Registration Act

NVRA Home

Training for Agencies

SB 35 Implementation  
Workshop Materials

Public Service Announcements

Secretary of  
State Correspondence

Rules and Standards

Local Registration Agencies

Reports

Reports by  
County and Category

Reports to EAC

Counties

Frequently Asked Questions

Contact Information

Local Registration Home

Elections Home

## Secretary of State NVRA Reports by County and Category

Under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), every two years the Secretary of State compiles reports to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) containing overall data for California. The reports are based on monthly and biennial NVRA county reports the counties submit to the Secretary of State's office and can be viewed below.

[Non-DMV Voter Registration Agencies: Monthly Totals by County and Category, April 2008 to Present](#) (xls ~902KB)

[Non-DMV Voter Registration Agencies: Yearly and Monthly Totals by County, 1995 to Present](#) (xls ~297KB)

[DMV Voter Registration: Yearly and Monthly Totals, 1995 to Present](#) (xls ~161KB)

[All NVRA Voter Registration Agencies: Yearly and Monthly Totals, 1995 to Present](#) (xls ~50KB)

[SB 35/NVRA Monthly Reports by County and Agency Office/Site](#)

Choose the  
SB 35 report

Search



Home  
Contact Us  
Website Help

## You Can Check to See How Many Voters Your Office Registered Each Month

[illegible]

# Compliance Concerns at Public Assistance Offices

There are 650 WIC sites in California. Only 125 appear in the November SB 35 reports.

Only 41 WIC sites had a recorded voter registration in November.

There are 200 county welfare office sites appearing in the November SB 35 reports. Only 120 sites reported a voter registration. 21 counties had 0 registrations at county welfare offices.

There are only 11 counties with at least 1 IHSS office appearing in the November SB 35 reports.

Only 4 counties had a recorded voter registration at an IHSS site in November.



# September Registrations at Offices Primarily Serving People With Disabilities

	Number of Counties Where Office Appears in SB 35 Reports	Number of Counties With at Least One Registration	Number of Registrations Total	Caseload
y Welfare s	58	37	2,818	CalFRESH Application received: 174
ne Supportive es Offices	11	4	11	221,991 partici (August, 201
ffices	44	25	115	Average mon participation 2013: 1.43 mi

# Problems with the report?

Contact your county elections office to see if they are tracking your voter registration cards.

Make sure your county elections official *tracks by site*. They should know where each of your office's sites are, and the voter registrations card serial numbers at each site.

Let your county elections official know who your office's NVRA coordinator is. Establish a relationship!

# Other Best Practices

If someone indicates on the voter pref. form that she wishes to register, do not send her home with a VRC. Fill the VRC out right then and there.

Adults applying on behalf of children also **MUST** receive voter registration services.

Develop written NVRA procedures for your office.

Mail completed cards daily.

Make sure clients know that they must reregister when they move or change their name, to avoid problems on Election Day.

Can't discourage, but can *encourage*.

# Language Requirements

The federal Voting Rights Act determines the languages in which you are required to have voter registration materials.

- Ask your county elections office about your language requirements.

Voter registration cards:

- Available in all required languages from county elections office.

Voter preference forms:

- Available in all required languages on SOS website. You must print.

Need a language other than one of your required languages? Check the SOS website.

# Questions?

**Raúl Macías | Voting Rights Advocate**  
**[rmacias@acluca.org](mailto:rmacias@acluca.org)**

916.442.1036 ext. 305